

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Samuel P. Langley, February 28, 1902

February 18, 1902. My dear Mr. Langley: —

I am interested in a young man, Mr. John H. Zable, who has made application for a position in the Smithsonian Institution. Mr. Zable has been in my employ for ten months and I can vouch for his integrity of character. As I shall soon be leaving the city, I would like to see him settled and it would be gratifying to me to have him placed on the Smithsonian role as clerk or copyist. Would it be possible to do so? Kindly let me know.

Yours sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell
Prof. S. P. Langley, Secretary Smithsonian Institution.

February 28, 1902. Prof. S. P. Langley, Secretary Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Dear Prof. Langley: —

My assistant Mr. Zable has obtained for me the loan of some organ pipes which demonstrate very well the interference tones produced by sounding together simultaneously two musical tones of high pitch differing only slightly from one another in frequency. The organ builder seems anxious to have the pipes returned, and has telephoned here for them, have but I would like you to see them before they are sent back, and so asked Mr. Zable to take them up to the Smithsonian on his way to the organ maker, so that you may have the opportunity of testing them if you desire.

I am sorry to note from your letter of February 22 that there is no vacancy in the Smithsonian Institution that Mr. Zable could fill. I have recommended him not to accept the position of laborer in the National Museum because it does not represent an advance nor is it the equivalent of the position he has with me. I pay him \$50 a month and am very well

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satisfied with him. It will not be necessary for him to leave me before the end of March, although of course I would not stand in his way if an immediate opening offered itself which he could fill.

Yours sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell